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Complex systems engineering applications for future battle management and command and control

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Title of Paper:

**Complex Systems Engineering Applications for
Future Battle Management and Command and Control**

Possible Symposium Topics:

- Topic 4: Collaboration, Shared Awareness, and Decision Making
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Interesting for the aspects of physical approach to BMC2 systems.

- Needs some recognition worked into the paper to reflect that it addresses primarily this point
- - needs acknowledgement that the people of the organizations, with their social and societal factors are contributors to the BMC2 and the understanding of the complex changing environment which represents the real world and any smaller complex situation
- that the defense systems are only one small set of whole/all government engagement means which is a extensible part of any BMC2 of the military/DoD.

• see notes and questions + points in margins within following pages of paper.

Complex Systems Engineering Applications for Future Battle Management and Command and Control

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needs an inserted
ABSTRACT
"limited to 200
words maximum
per guidance"
! - this is mandatory!

INTRODUCTION

"...only complex systems can perform complex tasks." [3]

Engineered (man-made) systems become necessarily complex when they must perform and function in response to highly uncertain (complex) environments. Planning all the possible functions of such systems becomes very challenging when all of the possibilities that may be encountered cannot be predicted. When engineered systems become complex they start outgrowing the bounds of traditional (or classical) system engineering (TSE) methods. Traditional systems are expected to perform foreseeable tasks in a bounded environment, whereas complex systems are expected to function in complex, open environments with unforeseeable contingencies. Complex Systems Engineering (CSE) does not "...primarily seek to produce predictable, stable behavior within carefully constrained situations, but rather to obtain systems capable of adaptation, change, and novelty—even surprise!" [3]

implied
self-organizing
or emergent
organization

Advances are being made in the science of complexity based on insights gained from the study of complexity found in natural and social systems. These are leading to novel approaches to designing and developing complex man-made systems. A central tenet of complex systems is the principle of emergence: that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This implies potential advantages for higher-level functionality emerging from engineered elements comprising a system. It also could imply possible emergent system behavior that is unpredictable. In other words, when the principle of emergence is applied to complex engineered systems, could these man-made systems perform or behave in unexpected ways? The newly forming field of CSE is attempting to address this question and explore methods to best engineer complex systems to take advantage of their complexity while also managing the unpredictability and large scope of such systems.

potentially
malevolent?

stated
here
good

This paper explores future tactical battle management and command and control (BMC2) as a complex system of systems. The future tactical BMC2 of warfare assets quickly becomes a challenging endeavor as the number of collaborating warfare assets and the physical distance between them increases. Likewise, as the tactical threat environment grows more complex, the ability to command and control the warfare assets to effectively respond and operate becomes an increasingly complex mission. Therefore, complex BMC2 tasks are needed to address the complex mission; and a complex BMC2 system of systems is required to perform these tasks.

First the paper examines future BMC2 systems to determine whether and how they might embody complexity. Part 2 delves into a deeper examination of the complexity characteristics of BMC2 through comparisons with some principles of complexity. Finally, part 3 discusses some CSE methods that have potential for application in the development of future tactical BMC2 endeavors.

Before investigating definitions and characteristics of complex systems, an overview of future BMC2 concepts is provided. BMC2 is the command, control, and management of warfare assets. Depending on the operational need, BMC2 can range from a single unit (platform) using only local resources to many distributed units functioning collaboratively for the benefit of the group (or Force) (shown in Figure 1). Such collaboration requires system designs that are developed with a “big picture” or force-level perspective in which distributed warfare resources are all considered part of a system of systems. Shifting to a Force-level perspective is key to taking maximum advantage of the distributed warfare assets for the needs of the whole. For example, Force-level thinking is necessary for selecting the preferred shooter from a group of distributed firing units.

An emergent behavior resulting from this proposed future technology would be the added enhancements of the situational awareness or operational environment “picture” as a result of optimized sensor resource management. As sensors are better allocated (more timely, with greater accuracy, etc.), the information or “picture” will improve. So it becomes a self-improving cycle of capabilities.

The "effective engagement envelope" will greatly expand as the shift takes place from a single warfighting unit using only local sensor and weapon resources to a system of collaborating warfighting units. The shared sensor data will enhance situational awareness; thereby extending the detection envelope and improving the reaction time of weapons deployment—which will extend the effective range of engagements. The ability to select the optimum weapon to employ from across the force (rather than being limited to a single unit) will greatly improve the economy of weapons resources as well as improve the probability of effective engagements.

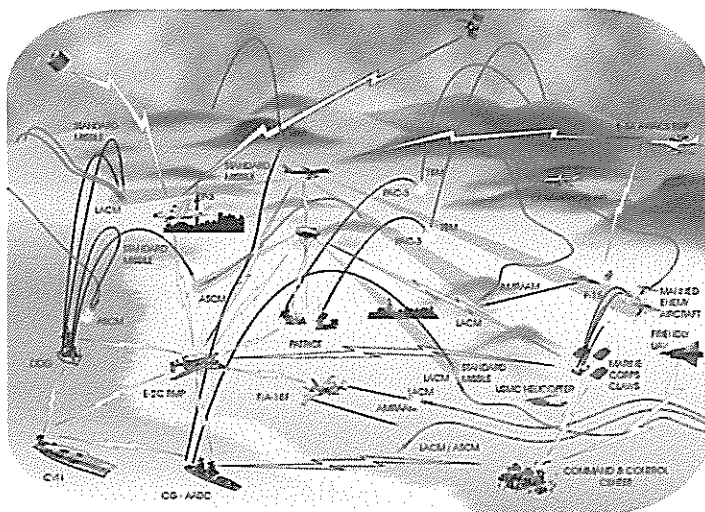


Figure 1 – Future BMC2 Operational Environment

A specific instance of force-level BMC2 is integrated fire control (IFC). IFC refers to the participation and coordination of multiple non-located warfare resources (sensors, weapons, C2 systems, and platforms (ships, aircraft, satellites, land-based units, etc.)) in tactical engagements of enemy targets. IFC is envisioned as the ability of a weapon system to develop fire control solutions from information provided by one or more non-organic sensor sources; conduct engagements based on these fire control solutions; and either provide mid-course guidance (in-flight target updates) to the interceptors based on this externally provided information or in certain cases, have them provided by a warfare unit other than the launching unit. Successful IFC would enable expansion of a weapon's battle space to the effective kinematic range of the missiles and can remove dependency on range limits of the organic/dedicated sensor. [16]

The attainment of IFC relies on the ability of participating sensors, weapons, and C2 systems to share target information in real-time and eliminate correlation errors so the engaging weapon system can utilize the information as if it was produced by its organic sensor(s). The ability to

direct distributed warfare resources in a collaborative manner would enable major enhancements for tactical fire control. Here are some of the envisioned payoffs:

- Selection of the best shooter from a set of geographically distributed weapons
- Improved chance of interception (by selecting the optimal engagement geometry)
- Improved economy of weapon resources (by reducing redundant shots)
- Earlier launch decisions (by remote detection and precision tracking)
- Decoupling of local sensor/weapon pairing constraint
- Sharing engagement control – forward pass
- Off-board engagement support for guidance relay and target illumination
- Enhanced defense against complex threat environments (sophisticated or significant numbers of aerospace targets) – IFC may be a necessity for victory

Future BMC2 is envisioned as a decentralized architecture of intelligent common processors that share data and information to produce common operational pictures (shared situational awareness). Further, each common processor develops identical commands to task the warfare resources from a force-level perspective. Therefore, each element, equipped with its common processor, develops the same set of commands on a continuous basis to control the resources to respond to the operational environment in accordance with mission needs.

PART ONE: EXPLORING THE COMPLEXITY OF FUTURE BMC2

What makes a system complex? Experts in the field of complexity science have not agreed on an official definition of a complex system; but a number of definitions exist that contain similarities. Two definitions given in Melanie Mitchell's book on complexity capture two different aspects of complex systems. [8] The first definition captures the large size, collaborative behavior, and lack of central control: "...a system in which large networks of components with no central control and simple rules of operation give rise to complex collective behavior, sophisticated information processing, and adaptation via learning or evolution."

An examination of future BMC2 concepts in light of this first definition indicates that future BMC2 constitutes a complex system. BMC2 can vary in its complexity based on the number of participating warfare assets that are collaborating. When the BMC2 "system" is comprised of a single platform with its resident weapons and sensors, it wouldn't be considered complex. However, in response to a complex operational mission, the "system" could contain a large number of varied platforms (based on the ground, sea, air, space, etc.) with many participating and diverse weapons and sensors. It would then fit the first definition of a complex system on the basis of "large networks of components", "complex collective behavior", and "sophisticated information processing." Additionally, if a decentralized architecture is adopted for future BMC2 endeavors, it would be possible to empower the elements of the system and avoid "central control." Future BMC2 capabilities to predict enemy courses of action and generate alternative plans and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) (rules of interaction) could be interpreted as "adaptation through learning or evolution."

The second definition focuses on emergence and self-organization: "...a system that exhibits nontrivial emergent and self-organizing behaviors." [8] Self-organization refers to the ability of the components of a complex system to create organized behavior without an internal or external controller.

Comparing future BMC2 to the second definition of complex systems requires additional analysis. Certainly nontrivial emergent behavior would be the central objective and payoff of creating a networked BMC2 system. This emergent "behavior" or functionality would include the ability to utilize warfare resources at the force-level or for the purposes of the system as a whole and not just for the purposes of the platforms to which individual resources are

these all
appear to
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could this
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capability from
small/whole of
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engagement
Team?

attached. Additional emergent capabilities would be the enhanced and shared situational awareness achieved through the sharing and common processing of data and information from the distributed sensors. The other part of the second definition for complex systems is the ability to have self-organizing behavior. On one hand, the TTPs and rules of engagement are internal controllers that constitute the rules by which the elements of the complex system are interacting or collaborating. So the BMC2 "system" itself is really the set of rules controlling the components. As long as each component is equipped with the common processing capabilities to determine how components should behave (sensors tasked, weapons engaged, platforms moved, etc.) is that considered "controlled" or "self-organized"? It depends on how it is viewed. In any case, the future BMC2 system of systems can certainly qualify as a complex system based on these definitions.

Just as there are a number of definitions of complex systems, a list can be compiled of properties and characteristics of complex systems. Table 1 lists some characteristics of complex systems compiled from a variety of sources. The following section evaluates to what extent future BMC2 has these properties.

Table 1 - Characteristics of Complex Systems

Characteristics of Complex Systems	
Complex Collective Behavior	Complex Operational Environment
Signaling and Information Processing	System Changes
Adaptation	Lateral Influences
Design Decisions	System Risk
Complex Objectives	Unforeseen Emergent Properties

Complex collective behavior: Complex systems are comprised of large networks of individual components, each typically following rules of interaction with no central control or leader. It is the collective action of these vast numbers of components that give rise to the complex, hard-to-predict, and changing patterns of behavior. In the potentially complex threat environment of BMC2, the system could consist of large numbers of warfare elements collaborating by following TTPs and rules of engagement in a decentralized architecture with no central control. The overall behavior would be changing in response to the operational environment and could be hard to predict with regard to which action might be taken by each individual element.

Signaling and information processing: Complex systems produce and use information and signals from both their internal and external environments. Information sharing to achieve information superiority is a key component of the future BMC2 system. The system will produce and use information generated by its internal components (elements comprising the system) and from external sources and the environment. Types of information will include: sensor data, environmental data, intelligence, health and status information concerning the warfare resources, resources tasking (commands), and much more.

Adaptation: Complex systems adapt - that is, they change their behavior to improve their chances of survival or success—through learning or evolutionary processes. Future BMC2 behavior is adaptive as it changes and responds to the threat environment and seeks to best utilize all of its warfare resource elements. The BMC2 system must adapt as its environment will constantly be changing. The common operational picture (situational awareness) generated by the BMC2 system will always be changing and adapting. Further, the set of resources participating will be changing in time; creating a unique set of resource tasking at any given moment in time. Additionally, the set of rules governing the tasking priorities and element interactions will adapt as more information is provided and plans are generated.

Design decisions: For complex systems a significantly large number of decisions have to be made regarding design, and typically the implications of design decisions are less predictable.

The future BMC2 system is based on a multitude of design decisions ranging from the micro-level (for each warfare resource) to the element level (integrating multiple warfare resources on platforms) to the macro-level (designing the system of systems architecture and force-level decision process). Design examples for the BMC2 system include: the common processing software, communications, and the decision process that governs resource allocation, interactions, and responses to the threat environment. The nature of future BMC2 including the complex threat environment and the large number and variance of the collaborative warfare elements results in a complex design whose implications are less predictable. The output of the future BMC2 system is the response of the warfare resources to the environment; which in the case of the weapons is a lethal or nonlethal engagement and in the case of sensors or platforms is the redirection of them to better optimize situational awareness or engagement geometries. This output is constantly changing and being updated as the environment and resources change in time. Therefore, the system output is necessarily unpredictable, unique, and changing in time. *as well as other pieces of the government* *and higher to this or - operations using the SoSs. + even nation to nation* *remember the environment will change because of the actions taken within it!*

Complex objectives: Complex systems have a large number of objectives and the objectives are generally inconsistent or changing. The future BMC2 system must operate under a large set of changing objectives that could contain inconsistent objectives at different points in time. Objectives include meeting the operational needs of different warfare areas based on threats present (i.e., air and missile defense, surface warfare, subsurface warfare, cruise missiles, asymmetric warfare, special operations, etc.). The system must also meet the operational objectives of individual platforms as well as those at the force-level. Conflicting objectives can arise from meeting both of these levels. Another challenge is the changing nature of the objectives of the system which change as the threat environment changes. Target priorities change as the combat environment unfolds. *they are a network + themselves* *this also depends on where the environment boundaries are established*

Complex operational environment: Complex systems need to operate in complex operational environments. The complexity of the operational environment may be a result of adverse environments, widely varying environments, or environments that cause challenging missions. The operational environment for future BMC2 systems is envisioned to be highly complex and could include a combination of multiple and fast-moving air, missile, land, and space-based threats. These threats could be sequential or simultaneous and may come from various directions. Threats could also include unmanned vehicles, swarms of manned or unmanned vehicles, asymmetric attacks, and unconventional attacks disguised as a non-threat. *where are the social + society components of the environment? also the Graham Allison 3 models? do those 3 apply here?*

System changes: For complex systems, change at any level may have system-wide impacts and small causes may have large effects. This characteristic could occur for the envisioned BMC2 system occasionally; but might not occur in general. The types of inputs to the BMC2 system include data input concerning the environment (sensor data, intel, weather/maps data, weapon loads and status, health and status of warfare resources, etc.), changes in the operating rules (TTPs, rules of engagement, decision rules, etc.), and operator input. So any individual input introduces a change in the system in terms of situational awareness, resources tasking, or longer-term planning. If individual inputs are considered small causes, then all system-wide impacts (identification of new threats, changes to tasking priorities, selection (or reselection) of best shooter, etc.) are results of individual small causes or small groups of small causes. But not all individual inputs (in fact the majority of them) will have system-level impacts or large effects. *this fits in the force of causes being part of a system*

Lateral influences: In complex systems, lateral influences are stronger and more dominant than hierarchical relationships. The future BMC2 system is primarily focused on lateral collaboration and interactions among the distributed warfare elements. The purpose of the BMC2 system is to ensure information is shared among the elements and that the warfare resources are tasked optimally to respond to the threat environment. The BMC2 enables the performance of the lateral collaboration. In the case of a single platform operating *influence not for modelling*

independently (which is no longer a complex system), the emphasis would be on the hierarchical relationship of the warfare assets resident on the single platform. *Do lateral influences interact positively or negatively with hierar-*

System risk: In complex systems, risk is dominated by system-level risks, rather than lower level risks in achieving the contributing parts. For the future BMC2 system, the risk shifts from the lower level to the system level as the system shifts from a single warfare platform operating independently to a collaborative system of multiple warfare platforms with many resources involved. Lower level risks, such as whether individual warfare resources (i.e., sensors and weapons) will function properly, become less of an issue as the number of participating elements increases. When multiple elements are involved, the risk shifts to system-level concerns such as whether information is being communicated properly and whether the force-level decision process of tasking resources is performing well and is synchronized across distributed elements. *Chical influences? In there some interde- pendence and correla- tion?*

Unforeseen emergent properties: Complex systems exhibit unforeseen or hard-to-predict emergent properties. It is difficult to predict if the future BMC2 system will exhibit unforeseen emergent properties. If such properties are truly unforeseen, then it remains to be seen whether the BMC2 will behave in unpredictable ways until it is operational or modeled. However, since weapon systems are involved, it is imperative to determine in system-level tests whether unforeseen emergent behavior occurs. Certainly, tragic results like fratricide and successful leakers need to be avoided. Human operator integration can prevent some unfavorable emergent properties. Humans can have override capabilities to have the ability to abort a weapons engagement, control a sensor, or verify intent prior to any weapons being fired. *-this is a hope + the reason for aspect of the CERP FLICIT tool + studies - it is not currently given.*

PART 2 - APPLYING COMPLEXITY PRINCIPLES TO FUTURE BMC2

To gain further insight into the complexity of future BMC2, the system is compared to a set of general system laws and principles that apply to complex systems. [11-14] Table 2 provides a list of the system principles that are used in this analysis to study the complexity of future BMC2. The section that follows discusses how each principle applies to future BMC2.

like the comment RE Table 1 Sources,
Table 2 - Principles that Apply to Complex Systems

Principles that Apply to Complex Systems	
System Holism Principle	Redundancy of Resources Principle
Darkness Principle	Sub-optimization Principle
80-20 Principle	Relaxation Time Principle
Law of Requisite Variety	Redundancy of Potential Command Principle

System Holism Principle

The System Holism Principle states that a system has holistic properties not manifested by any of its parts and their interactions. [11] This principle can also be characterized as, "vertical emergence" and is widely understood as "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." Holistic properties of future BMC2 systems are the force-level capabilities that are made possible through the collaborative interactions of the parts, or in this case distributed warfare elements. Force-level capabilities include enhanced situational awareness. A single fire control element (operating independently) that contains a sensor and processor will be able to generate a situational awareness that is limited to its own sensor data. A network of many distributed sensors will generate an enhanced situational awareness that benefits from an expanded field of view from many varied vantages and from a variety of different data collection devices. The ability to manage the sensors from a force-level perspective enhances the situational awareness further by redirecting sensors to collect data to enhance the force-level picture (increase the field of view, provide higher-fidelity data, or provide a different type of

data); rather than just collecting data to enhance the more limited picture that would have been generated with a platform-level purpose if elements were not collaborating as a system of systems.

Another holistic property is IFC or the capability to engage threats using distributed (non-collocated) weapon, sensor, and guidance systems. Again, the engagements will be more effective (better selection of optimum weapon, more optimal engagement geometry, improved probability of engagement; improved economy of weapons resources; earlier launch decisions; etc.) as they are managed with a force-level perspective; rather than being limited to only considering the capabilities of resources from a single non-collaborative platform. *This is the principle of NCW as mentioned previously including non-kinetic + non-military*

The Darkness Principle

The darkness principle in complexity thinking is the concept of incompressibility. The darkness principle says that "no system can be known completely." This suggests that the best representation of a complex system is the system itself and that any representation other than the system itself will necessarily misrepresent certain aspects of the original system. The darkness principle implies that there is no way a member of a complex system can ever know itself completely—they will always be in the shadow of the whole. "Each element in the system is ignorant of the behavior of the system as a whole, it responds only to information that is available to it locally. This point is vitally important. If each element "knew" what was happening to the system as a whole, all of the complexity would have to be present in that element." [11] *—where does one create access to information with this point?*

For future BMC2 with the existence of common processing resident in each warfare element and shared information, each element of the complex system gains a complete understanding of the whole system (or in this case, the force-level perspective for resource management and situational awareness). This implies that the system complexity is present in each element. Thus, the Darkness Principle of complexity doesn't apply in the decentralized command and control architecture proposed for future tactical BMC2 applications. *Is it a precursor or is there awareness of the extensive complexity?*

80-20 Principle

According to the 80-20 principle, in any large complex system, 80% of the output will be produced by only 20% of the system. Given a Boolean network as an example---it can be found that many "leaf" nodes do not contribute to the long-term behavior of the networks; and can be removed without affecting the emergent system-level performance; however, they do perform for small periods of time and support system stability. [11]

Without an analysis of the actual BMC2 system or the study of a system model, it cannot be presently known how closely the system follows the 80-20 Principle. However, a preliminary evaluation of system redundancy and an understanding of the system outputs reveal that a smaller percentage of the system will be responsible for generating a larger percentage of the output. The outputs of this system include situational awareness (continuously updated common operational picture), commands (tasks) for warfare resources (sensor, weapons, platforms), evaluations of decision alternatives, predictions of future threats, and plans for future responses to threats. These outputs are generated at each participating common "node" or processor; which exist at the distributed warfare element platforms. And the outputs depend on data and information from the sensors, external sources, warfare resources, commanders, and environment. So the question becomes, what percentage of the systems is actively producing this output at any given time? And, what percentage of the contributing sensor's data is really improving or adding value to the situational awareness? The answers to these questions will also depend on the complexity of the threat environment and the number of participating collaborative warfare elements at any given time. In any case, the percentages will be less than 100%. With identical processing occurring at each warfare element, the outputs are being generated as many times as there are elements; and they are being

continually updated. So, a significant amount of redundancy is designed into the decentralized architecture that is envisioned.

Law of Requisite Variety

The Law of Requisite Variety states that "control can only be obtained if the variety of the controller is at least as great as the variety of the situation to be controlled." A variation on this is that "...every good regulator of a system must contain a complete representation of that system." [12] The future BMC2 system complies with this complexity principle. With common processors, each warfare element attains information superiority through the common operational picture which contains shared situational awareness, health and status information of the warfare resources, and identical rule sets. So, each warfare element is empowered with the variety of the situation and therefore has the ability to "control" (or arrive at the optimum resource tasking solution) warfare assets at the force-level.

Redundancy of Resources Principle

The Redundancy of Resources Principle states that maintenance of stability under conditions of disturbance requires redundancy of critical resources. [12] This is supported by the 80/20 principle – the redundant elements absorb external perturbations and prevent them from perforating through the network. Redundancy in feedback also provides a means for a system to maintain itself in the face of external forces.

System stability is a concern for the future BMC2 system. There are two types of conditions that could disturb the system. The first would be a threat to the warfare elements or platforms themselves. The second are disturbances to the BMC2 system itself. Having redundancy in the warfare resources (weapons, sensors, platforms, etc.) will support the defense of these systems against the first type of threat "disturbances" or enemy firepower. Disturbances to the BMC2 system could include an overload of information or data; false or corrupt data; outages/communication failures; a threat environment so complex that the number of resource taskings overloads the decision prioritization process; and delays that could slow the tasking process down to the point where the reaction time is not met. System redundancy that could address these types of disturbances include redundant links (communication paths), the redundancy of the common processors at each element; and the ability to synchronize information among elements. *i.e., extra capacity*

Sub-optimization Principle

The Sub-optimization Principle states that if each subsystem, regarded separately, is made to operate with maximum efficiency, the system as a whole will not operate with utmost efficiency. [13] And the reverse is implied: if the whole is made to operate with maximum efficiency, the comprising subsystems will not operate with upmost efficiency. This can also be thought of as parts in isolation behave differently from parts that are connected to a system and/or an environment. The sub-optimization principle readily applies to the BMC2 system. If individual warfare platforms are considered subsystems, then it is easy to imagine that if the platforms are each operating as they would in isolation; then given threats in the environment, each would fire weapons to engage the targets. This would likely result in a waste of fire power with multiple weapons fired at targets. Each platform would also be functioning with a limited situational awareness based on only the data from its resident sensors. The result would be a platform-centric tactical paradigm rather than a force-level tactical paradigm. Examining the reverse implies that if the system is made to operate at maximum efficiency at the force-level, then the warfare platforms will not be operating at maximum efficiency. This situation would be the intent; since fewer weapons would have to be fired and sensors could share in the creation of the common operational picture. *- also come out of Goldratt's constraints analysis = the constraint keeping moving - along with value stream analysis.*

Relaxation Time Principle

The Relaxation Time Principle states that system stability is possible only if the system's relaxation time is shorter than the mean time between disturbances. [13] Application of this *consider including employing non-kinetic engagements at the best place + time + method for the outcome desired*

principle to the future BMC2 system is critical to the success and stability of the system. It is critical to understand the rhythm and tempo of the system events including the speed of communications, processing, decision-making, synchronizations, and generation of resource tasking. Additionally, the tempo of the "disturbances" on threats must be understood. This includes the speed, location, and numbers of threats and the resulting system reaction times necessary to address the threats. It is important to understand the system tempo and to ensure it correlates with the threat tempo and also includes built-in time for "relaxation" or processing necessary to stabilize in between actions (or recoveries from disturbances).

Redundancy of Potential Command Principle

The Redundancy of Potential Command Principle states that in any complex decision network, the potential to act effectively is conferred by an adequate concatenation of information. This means that to "control" a complex system we must at first have a sufficiently good representation of it. [13] The task of constructing such a "sufficiently good representation" is problematic when concerned with complex systems because any representation is incomplete. Such incompleteness always leaves open the possibility that the basis for taking action might be (sometimes wildly) inaccurate. So, for the future BMC2, how can the sufficiency of the representation be determined? For BMC2, the representation is the situational awareness (or common operational picture) shared among the warfare elements. In order for the BMC2 system to generate tasking (commands) that result in effective warfare actions, the situational awareness needs to have an acceptable level of accuracy and field of view (to effectively cover the operational area). Strategies such as requiring sufficient quality track data and target identification accuracy to support engagement decisions; supporting blue force tracking capabilities such as Interrogation Friend or Foe (IFF) that involve communication with targets to determine if they are friendly or not; and continually generating and refining plans to redirect resources as more information becomes available.

PART THREE - COMPLEX SYSTEM ENGINEERING APPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE BMC2

"As systems become increasingly large and must seamlessly interoperate with other systems in ways that were never envisioned, system engineers are bumping into the limits of the tenets, principles, and practices traditionally used in systems engineering." [15]

The purpose of this section is to introduce some concepts from CSE that have potential application in the design and development of the future BMC2 system. First an overview of some CSE methods is provided as well as a comparison of CSE with TSE. Next some take-aways from parts one and two of this paper are used to evaluate how the future BMC2 system may exceed the limits of TSE. Finally, some general CSE strategies are discussed that could have application to future BCM2.

Complex System Engineering

"Complexity Theory is found to have characterized naturally occurring systems and to potentially be the source of profitable application to the systems engineering challenge, namely, the creation of complex engineered systems." [4] The challenge for engineering complex systems is to design with a degree of confidence that is acceptable: to deal with the complexity in a predictable way. One proposed set of CSE steps to address this challenge is as follows:

1. Identify when a system and/or its solution complex
2. Determine the level of complexity (or relative complexity)
3. Determine when enough SE has been done; and when the level of confidence in the design (and the predictable behavior) is acceptable. [4]

Another CSE method is to engineer at the system level, or gain an understanding of the system as a whole and emphasize lateral interactions rather than hierarchical. "Highly integrated enough

June 2012

throughout paper - system may not have been well established or 'bounded' by scope or caveat of paper discussion
though both truly apply dependence on environment - see CCRP decision cube

systems exhibit more complex interactions across the system than earlier, simpler systems. In the highly integrated system, the designer must consider effects on all parts of the system. We are therefore engineering at the systems level more fundamentally than ever; as opposed to introducing subsystems into an evolved, well-precedented system structure." [4]

might this be because assumptions lead to a simple vice a complex - note Newtonian mechanics + quantum mechanics

Table 3 lists some differences between traditional systems (or systems that are good candidates for TSE) and complex systems. Highlighting these differences illustrates the necessity to engineer these two types of systems differently. In shifting from TSE to CSE, the design focus

Traditional System	Complex System
Hierarchical Relationships dominate lateral influences	Lateral influences dominate hierarchical relationships
Cause and effect are relatively obvious and direct	Cause and effect are not obvious and direct; Small causes can have large effects
The implications of design decisions are relatively predictable	The implications of design decisions are much less predictable
Risks are dominated by the local risks in achieving the contributing parts	Risks are dominated by system risks, with unforeseen emergent properties
Influences on, and implications of, decisions tend to follow the local partitioning of the solution elements	Influences on, and implications of, decisions are much more difficult to bound and to establish

Table 3 - Traditional Systems vs. Complex Systems

needs to shift away from hierarchical relationships and toward lateral relationships to support and enable collaboration among elements. Similarly the shift of risk dominance from local risks in traditional systems to system-level risks in complex system changes the focus from an engineering perspective. For complex systems, it emphasizes the greater need to

see your ref. 6.2 Fig. 10 for the mix of lateral + hierarchical vice one or the other! applied Ashby's law to address social + societal aspects of the organization involved! a point of recent CCRP research + papers

engineer at the system-level. The decrease in certainty of design decisions, cause and effect relationships, and system boundaries for complex systems creates the need for a more fluid style of engineering with less stringent requirements satisfaction and more open-endedness. Another proposed method is to adopt an evolutionary paradigm for CSE that involves rapid parallel exploration and a context designed to promote change through competition between design/implementation groups with field testing of multiple variants. [2] When the inherent nature of the complex system is too large to handle using TSE, an environment needs to be created in which continuous innovation can occur. This evolutionary strategy involves developing multiple designs in parallel; testing them in parallel; and combining them or combinations of them incrementally. This concept also promotes testing in the field to gain insight through direct system feedback from the environment.

Here is another set of proposed CSE steps:

1. Design the environment and processes by which the system is going to be created (without designing the system itself).
2. Design components of the system for the system as a whole.
3. Design a set of rules about how components engage with one another and the process of change. [15]

← This is almost like the various views of the DSDM which can be used for actual systems + the people organizations.

All of these CSE concepts provide alternative methods to address the challenges presented by engineering complex systems. The concepts are a starting point to stimulate thinking and promote the consideration of novel approaches beyond TSE. One final thought concerning the marriage of TSE with CSE is a good conclusion to this overview: "[Traditional] systems engineering and complex system engineering live together. Treating them separately doesn't make any sense. CSE builds on the capabilities of TSE but has its own unique perspective of focusing on the system environment." [15]

* The Agile Organization - Atkinson + Maffett - CCRP JULY 2005

strongly suggest needs for extra singular or multiple

CSE Applications for BMC2

"Many engineering applications, such as real-time decision support, communications and control, are reaching the point where classical methods are no longer feasible for reasons of system interdependencies and complexity." [1]

The quote above embodies the questions posed in this section: having established that future BMC2 is a complex system; are classical systems engineering methods (or TSE) no longer appropriate? Should CSE methods be considered for future BMC2?

The complexity characteristics of future BMC2 pose serious challenges that may exceed the limits of TSE. Complexity in the objectives—including the number of objectives, the changing nature of the objectives, and the potential conflicting objectives results in a system that is difficult to define or bound. Generating a well-defined set of mission objectives and system requirements becomes very challenging. Complexity involved in design decisions – the large scope of design and number of decisions to be made, in addition to the unpredictability of design decision outcomes—is another major example of BMC2 exceeding TSE limits. *this design is so complex that it is not clear if it is even possible to define the system boundaries.*

Complexity in the operational environment coupled with complex collective system behavior, adaptation, and unforeseen emergent properties result in a system that will well exceed the limits of TSE. Ultimately, every moment in the operational life of the BMC2 system will be unique. The operational environment (including threat scenario) will be constantly changing and will never be static or repeatable. Additionally, the system itself will be changing in time as platforms "join" and "exit" the system and the status, location and capabilities of the warfare resources change. Thus, the BMC2 system will have to constantly adapt as the situation and its own comprising elements change from moment to moment. Additional consideration of the numbers of warfare element participants, decentralized collaboration, and hard-to-predict potential emergent properties further exceeds to boundaries of TSE. As an example, with an infinite number of operational scenarios, it would be impossible to follow traditional test and evaluation methods.

Given that future BMC2 requires some engineering methods beyond TSE, the next step is to examine some CSE methods that might apply. The first set of proposed CSE steps (in the previous part of this section) suggested (1) identifying when a system is complex, (2) determining the level of complexity, and (3) determining when enough SE had been accomplished. The first two sections of this paper have illustrated that the BMC2 system is complex and have examined complexity levels in various areas related to the system. The third step in this proposed method is actually a good starting place for designing the BMC2 system. In addition to capturing high level objectives and requirements, it would be beneficial to set some objectives for the SE effort itself so that a potentially open-ended, evolving design is complete enough for increments of the system to be developed and released for operations. *- or is it integrating the pieces which provide the capabilities of BMC2*

Engineering at the system-level is another recommended CSE method. This is very applicable to the future BMC2 system. The emergent, force-level properties of this complex system are the pay-off for engineering this system. The ability to command and control the distributed warfare resources for the good of the force is the ultimate goal. Achieving shared situational awareness among the distributed warfare elements is necessary to gaining the force-level command of resources. Therefore, attaining as complete an understanding as possible of the properties of this complex system at the system-level is critical to the success of this system. Engineering activities at the system-level will include establishing high level objectives and requirements, managing high-level risk, understanding emergent properties, attempting to predict the hard-to-predict emergent properties, and attempting to predict adaptive behavior.

The evolutionary paradigm is another good candidate CSE method for developing the future BMC2 system. Since the BMC2 faces an ever-changing threat environment and will be

comprised of an ever-changing set of warfare elements, a system engineering environment in which design adaptation is a central tenant needs to be the focus of development; perhaps more so than the system design itself. This environment can promote rapid parallel exploration, competition among design groups, parallel testing, process development, and a focus on designing the rules by which elements interact.

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In addition to trying to cope with the scope and complexity of the future BMC2 system, engineering strategies must also strive to ensure designs take advantage of the benefits that complexity offers. Designs should not limit features such as redundancy, sub-optimization, and the 80-20 principle of output from producers. At first glance these may seem wasteful and inefficient and even costly design features; but they may be key to providing the stability and response times necessary to function in a complex environment and produce emergent functionality. The benefits are the abilities to adapt, self-organize, and provide agility and diversity.

as well as
surge
capacity

CONCLUSION

An exploration of the complexity of future BMC2 reveals that the system has many characteristics of complexity and follows many principles of system complexity. Further examination shows that the design and development of future BMC2, with its inherent complexity, exceeds the limits of TSE. Thus, the proposed methods of CSE need to be explored for applicability to BMC2. Given the brief introduction to CSE in this paper, further investigation into appropriate CSE methods for BMC2 is warranted.

Several CSE methods show promise for applicability to the development of BMC2. One is gaining understanding at the system-level and maintaining a high-level vantage from which to engineer the system. Another is to focus on the development of an appropriate engineering environment in which the system can be developed within an evolutionary paradigm and parallel development and testing are possible. There should also be a focus on the rules that govern warfare element interaction. Methods from both TSE and CSE should be considered as a combination approach to engineering the future BMC2 system. Finally, the adopted and tailored approach needs to make sure that system designs don't limit or constrain the benefits and pay-offs of the complex nature of the future BMC2 system.

Further research in other aspects of the complexity of future BMC2 would provide a deeper understanding of the system and support the systems engineering approach. Listed is a set of future explorations:

- Understand and quantify the BMC2 system tempo, the threat environment tempo, and analyze and compare the tempos to identify disconnects
- Determine what a sufficient level of systems engineering completeness would be – develop a strategy to determine when the level of confidence in the design is acceptable
- Study the 80/20 principle as it applies to BMC2. What percentage of the system output will be produced by what percentage of the system?
- Predict and understand emergent properties
- Study the overall system stability against “disturbances” – is there enough redundancy and sub-optimization to compensate for disturbances?
- Study what sufficiency in representation (situational awareness) is required to support action (resource tasking).

In conclusion, the potential complex threat environment of the future and the mission need to provide defensive measures and tactical responses have created a need for a future BMC2 system that can perform complex tasks. And, only a complex BMC2 system can perform complex BMC2 tasks!

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